

Meditation from Anthony de Mello SJ

There was an old Sufi who earned his living by selling all sorts of odds and ends. It seemed as if the man had no judgment because people would frequently pay him in bad coins and he would accept them without a word of protest, or people would claim they had paid him when they hadn't, and he accepted their word for it.

When it was time for him to die, he raised his eyes to heaven and said. 'Oh, Allah! I have accepted many bad coins from people, but never once did I judge the in my heart. I just assumed that they were not aware of what they did. I am a bad coin too. Please do not judge me.'

And a Voice was heard that said, 'How is it possible to judge someone who has not judged others?'

*Many can do loving deeds.
Rare is the person who can think living thoughts.*

Parish Gardening Club

Meeting monthly on second Saturdays at 10:00am in the Church car park to keep the church grounds in good order.



The Club is being coordinated by Teresa Leese and Maggie O'Sullivan (to whom many thanks!)

All welcome. Please bring hand tools and gloves!



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Mass of the **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his

Confirmation: Registration for Confirmation for children in Year 6 - or older - has begun.

It is not yet clear when and how the Sacrament will be celebrated - though we are presently aiming for Masses in May next year. However all those who wish to be part of the programme - *whether or not children will do part of their preparation with St Nicholas School* - should complete an application form as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is October 1st.

First Holy Communion: 2019-20 group: Plans have been notified to parents allowing children who were scheduled to make their First Holy Communion during May of this year to have the opportunity of making their First Communions after the October Half Term.

First Holy Communion: 2020-21 group: The expectation is that children in Year 3 or above who have not yet begun their preparation for Holy Communion will begin their preparation after shortly. All those who wish to be part of the programme - *whether or not children will do part of their preparation with St Nicholas School* - should complete an application form as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is October 1st.



We are in urgent need of additional volunteers so that we can continue to open the church for Sunday and Weekday Mass

Thank you to all of those who have been helping us to meet the safety requirements for opening the church for Mass. Some volunteers have been helping every week and some several times in the week. Their service has meant that the church has been open again for almost two months. However, a number of our volunteers are away for holidays shortly - and in any case could do with some more help. **So can you help, please?**

We need volunteers to help with the cleaning of the church (wiping down benches, mopping the floor where people sit and vacuuming). We work with teams of 4 people after each Sunday Mass (and 2 after weekday Masses where there is much less to do). Each session takes about 20 minutes.

If you can help in September/October please delete any days below that you cannot do, and place it in the offertory basket at the entrance to the church - or email details to Fr Allen by 6pm on Sunday 23 August. Thank you.

- Sat 6pm 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10; 10/10
- Sun 9am 6/9; 13/9; 20/9; 27/9; 4/10; 11/10
- Sun 11am 6/9; 13/9; 20/9; 27/9; 4/10; 11/10
- Mon 10am 7/9; 14/9; 21/9; 28/9; 5/10; 12/10
- Tues 10am 8/9; 15/9; 22/9; 29/9; 6/10; 13/10
- Weds 10am 9/9; 16/9; 23/9; 30/9; 7/10; 14/10
- Fri 7pm 11/9; 18/9; 25/9; 2/10; 9/10; 16/10

Name

Telephone

Email

(Block capitals please)

Present Arrangements for Mass

Face coverings: Government regulations require members of the congregation to wear face-coverings which cover their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. If you have a medical certificate relieving you of this obligation please confirm in advance with Fr Allen. This will allow appropriate seating to be arranged for you and to safeguard others.

Social distancing: Please keep the 1m social distance from all not in your family or bubble. All benches are suitable for 3 individuals (or more). As numbers attending Mass increase, we need all the spaces to be available. *If there is already someone in the bench you choose, please sit in the middle space, and leave the aisle seat for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you or pass you to get into the bench.*

Offertory: There is no offertory collection at present, but there is a basket for your offerings on the table just inside the church.

Thank you for your cooperation

ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Psalms 94(95):1-2,6-9

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love

your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge.

But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (omitted at the Bishop's request)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are the mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

*After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy," the priest holds up the Host to the Congregation and says **The Body of Christ** to which the people respond **Amen**.*

*In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, **The Blood of Christ** and again the people respond **Amen**.*

For the distribution of Holy Communion to the Faithful a small table has been placed before the Sanctuary to socially distance the priest distributing Holy Communion and communicants.

Please wait in your pew until instructed by the Stewards to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.

When you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between you and the priest.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing

Dismissal

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

On-line Support for Prayer

Weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - on Sunday at 4pm for Lectio Divina and on Monday at 7pm for Rosary.

Zoom links are posted on the parish Blog on the day. Do join us - especially if you are not confident in returning to church for Mass.

Get real about dying

Our MP has recently written of his conversion to a policy of euthanasia for those who are terminally ill and choose it. Read his reflections and intentions at bit.ly/2Z3bXdu

Sometimes, at the end of their life, people are faced with painful conditions and are greatly constrained and distressed. They (and their families and friends) merit our generous support and care.

Palliative care and hospice care helps to manage pain and reduce distress. But the 'care' bit of that is often as important as the expert medical intervention.

Most of us know how restricted access is to hospice care (so often dependent on local charitable funding, and now in crisis because of lock-down) and how often good personal care has been managed out of NHS wards. And how difficult it often is for families to talk with loved ones about their approaching death. All this adds to anxiety and pain.

Those of us who are not experts in the field get the chance to be expertly updated by a on-line talk at 4pm on 30 Sept by Kathy Mannix. She is a palliative care expert who campaign for better public understanding of dying. Her book, *With the End in Mind* (William Collins 2017) became a recent unlikely Best Seller. **Reserve a place via our parish blog (Blog of 3rd Sept)**

Birmingham Justice & Peace Assembly 2020

The Climate Emergency: Listening to the 'Cry Of The Earth and the Cry Of The Poor'

This year's Assembly takes place ONLINE, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28 Sept, Weds 30 September, Fri 2 October and ending with an Evening Prayer with Archbishop Bernard on Sun 4 October at 7pm.

Sessions include:

- *Ecological Conversion – an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home*
- *Prepare the Future – building back better to address the climate emergency*
- *Local Government Responsibilities – planning for the West Midlands*

For more information and to book go to <https://bit.ly/JPassembly2020> or email bham.jandp@gmail.com

Parish Art Club

Our next meeting will be on 15th September at 11am, meeting in the Banners Gate car-park, for a little input and then spreading out to continue our learning to draw trees. Please bring your own pencils, pens, paper etc. *Newcomers - especially beginners - always welcome.*

If it rains, we will meet instead in the Benedict Room from 1030am.

Financial support for the Church: You will appreciate that parish income has been cut right back over the past months, but our bills have not reduced by anything like as much! If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you.
- **STANDING ORDERS** are a helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available or those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Sa	5	6pm	23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 3</i>	For the parish
Su	6	9am 11am		
M	7	10am		
T	8	10am	Nativity of the BVM	Peggie Gallagher RD (Lawlor)
W	9			
Th	10			
F	11	7pm		
Sa	12	6pm	24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 4</i>	For the parish
Su	13	9am 11am		

Sacrament of Reconciliation The current restrictions make it impractical to celebrate the Sacrament in the Confessional room. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation, please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place for this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Frances Raczka, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Peggy Gallagher who died recently and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Gerard Harkins, Conn Corcoran, and Thomas Madigan. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**